Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LOUREN 00915 211706Z

42
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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O 211530Z AUG 75
FM AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3800

C O N F I D E N T I A L LOURENCO MARQUES 915

EXDIS

FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER FROM SENATOR DICK CLARK

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OREP (CLARK, CODEL), PFOR, US, MZ
SUBJECT: MEETING WITH PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL

REF: LOURENCO MARQUES 904

1. I MET WITH PRESIDENT SAMORA MACHEL THIS MORNING FOR ABOUT AN HOUR. FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO WAS PRESENT FOR MOST OF THE CONVERSATION. MACHEL USED AN INTERPRETER BUT SEEMED TO UNDERSTAND A GOOD BIT OF THE ENGLISH. PRESS AND CAMERA MEN WERE IN HIS OFFICE WHEN I ARRIVED AND REMAINED WHILE WE EXCHANGED PLEASANTRIES.

2. THE TONE OF THE MEETING, AS SET BY PRESIDENT MACHEL, WAS WARM AND FRIENDLY. THERE WAS A MARKED ABSENCE OF CRITICISM IN WHAT HE SAID AND HIS EMPHASIS WAS ON THE FUTURE RATHER THAN THE PAST. "THE WAR IS OVER", HE SAID. REFERRING TO HIS RECENT MESSAGE TO PRESIDENT FORD WHICH HE SAID INDICATED HIS DESIRE TO ESTABLISH DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS, HE TURNED TO FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO AND INSTRUCTED HIM TO WORK OUT THE DETAILS "BETWEEN THE FOREIGN MINISTRIES".

3. SAMORA MACHEL PLACED GREAT STRESS ON MOZAMBIQUE'S DESIRE "TO PRESERVE PEACE IN THIS SIDE OF AFRICA AND TO MAKE THE INDIAN OCEAN A ZONE OF PEACE". HE DWELT AT SOME LENGTH ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS ON THE NEED "TO SEE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 LOUREN 00915 211706Z

IN RHODESIA" AND "TO FIND MACHINERY TO RESOLVE THE CONFLICTS

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006

IN SOUTHERN AFRICA".

4. IN THIS CONNECTION I HAVE THE VERY DISTINCT IMPRESSION, STRENGTHENED BY FOREIGN MINISTER CHISSANO'S REMARKS YESTERDAY, THAT MACHEL IS QUITE CONCERNED ABOUT THE POSSIBLE IMPACT ON MOZAMBIQUE OF ARMED CONFLICT IN RHODESIA. "WE ARE NOT FOR 'DIALOGUE' BUT WE ARE FOR NEGOTIATIONS", MACHEL SAID AT ONE POINT, ADDING, "WE THINK TODAY THERE ARE THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS FOR NEGOTIATIONS".

5. IN RESPONSE TO HIS QUESTION REGARDING THE ATTITUDE OF THE UNITED STATES TOWARD MOZAMBIQUE, I REFERRED TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER AND TO THE PUBLICLY STATED POSITIONS OF ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS BEFORE THE AFRICA SUBCOMMITTEE. SPECIFICALLY, I MENTIONED ASSISTANT SECRETARY DAVIS' ASSURANCE THAT THE U.S. WOULD LOOK FAVORABLY ON A REQUEST FOR BILATERAL ASSISTANCE; AID TESTIMONY BEFORE THE COMMITTEE CITING WILLINGNESS TO COMSIDER BALANCE OF PAYMENTS ASSISTANCE; AND THE DISPOSITION TO LOOK FAVORABLY ON LONG TERM LOW INTEREST CREDIT FOR FOOD SHIPMENTS.

6. PRESIDENT MACHEL STRESSED MOZAMBIQUE'S DESIRE TO RETAIN ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION AND INDEPENDENCE. HE SPECIFICALLY SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO RELATE TO U.S. AS PART OF ANY BLOC, BUT ON THE BASIS OF MUTUAL RESPECT FOR EACH OTHER'S CHOICE OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMCC SYSTEMS. HE NOTED, IN THIS CONNECTION, THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS RELATIONS "WITH THE SOVIET UNION, CHINA AND OTHER COUNTRIES WITH DIFFERENT SOCIAL SYSTEMS".

7. THESE WERE, I BELIEVE, THE SALIENT POINTS OF THE CONVERSATION. MACHEL IS AN INTERESTING MAN; STRONG AND ARTICULATE, WITH DEEP CONVICTIONS BUT NO BITTERNESS OR STRIDENCY. THIS AFTERNOON WE ARE BEING TAKEN TO MEET THE THIRD OF MOZAMBIQUE'S LEADING FIGURES, MARCELINO DOS SANTOS. TONIGHT THE FOREIGN MINISTER IS OFFERING A DINNER.

8. I AM STAYING IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH THE OFFICIALS OF THE U.S. CONSULATE WHO SEEM TO BE BEARING UP ADMIRABLY UNDER WHAT MUST HAVE BEEN TRYING CIRCUMSTANCES. INCIDENTALLY, IN THIS RESPECT, WE HAVE SOUGHT AND RECEIVED SPECIFIC ASSURANCE
CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 LOUREN 00915 211706Z

FROM THE FOREIGN MINISTRY THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND A BREAK IN THE U.S. PRESENCE HERE. THEIR RECENT LETTER, IT WAS EXPLAINED, SIMPLY SOUGHT TO APPLY TO THE UNITED STATES THE SAME CRITERIA WHICH HAVE BEEN APPLIED TO PERSONNEL OF OTHER CONSULATES WHO WERE HERE PRE-INDEPENDENCE. THIS SEEMS CONSISTENT WITH THE UNMISTAKABLE ASSUMPTION ON THE PART OF BOTH THE PRESIDENT AND FOREIGN MINISTER THAT FULL RELATIONS BETWEEN THE U.S. AND MOZAMBIQUE WILL DEVELOP AND THAT MUTUAL COOPERATION IS

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POSSIBLE.
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Margaret P. Grafeld
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EO Systematic Review
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